Atty. Dkt. No. 016907-1605

N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Yusuke HASHIZUME et al.

Title:

IMAGE READING APPARATUS

Appl. No.:

10/787,077

Filing Date:

2/27/2004

Examiner:

Huo Long Chen

Art Unit:

4157

Confirmation

5483

Number:

<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u> <u>UNDER 37 CFR §1.56</u>

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of a document known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The foregoing documents came to Applicants' attention during a search of the corresponding Japanese application. The Japanese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement to the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action. A copy of the Japanese Office Action with an English language translation setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

Applicant wishes to advise the Examiner that document JP 2002-314755 cited in the Japanese Office Action was previously submitted and considered in an Information Disclosure Statement dated February 27, 2004.

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted

Date March 20, 2008

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